GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:201
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2002
PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the agriculture scientists the foodgrains production for the next 20 years would be lower than what was predicted earlier;

(b) if so, whether the production of foodgrains is expected to be lower by about 60 million tonnes by the year 2020 which may not be sufficient to meet even the domestic requirement;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c): Question does not arise, Sir.

(d) For efficient and sustainable food production, it will be essential to have a farming system approach involvig multi-disciplinary efforts. Development of high yielding varieties/ hybrids with emphasis on efficiency, sustainability, diversification, post-production management, small farm mechanization are being taken up. Human Resource Development Programme to train manpower in the frontier areas and innovative approaches will have to be adopted to upgrade skills of farmers and for technological empowerment of women engaged in agriculture. Germplasm collection, conservation, optimum utilization and germplasm enhancement need to receive greater attention. Application of biotechnology to evolve new genetically engineered strains of varieties/hybrids and plants of high nutritional quality, resistant to major pest and diseases need to be focussed to meet the challenges ahead.